

September 28, 2009

### **OBEY UPDATED ON LOCAL WEATHERIZATION EFFORTS**

SUPERIOR, WI – Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) was in Superior today to receive an update on how federal funds are being used to weatherize almost 500 local homes. Wisconsin has received \$48 million in federal funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for weatherization to help save energy and reduce heating and cooling costs in the homes of the elderly, handicapped, and families with children under the age of six. The funding was provided through legislation produced by the Appropriations Committee which Obey chairs.

“I’m glad to see that Wisconsin residents will benefit from these weatherization efforts,” said Obey. “Because it provides additional jobs for people doing the weatherization work and saves money for those with homes that get weatherized.” 20 local service agencies will be working to weatherize homes. The Ashland County Housing Authority administers the program over a six county area including Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland, Iron, Vilas, and Oneida County.

“This program creates additional jobs, saves money by making it cheaper to heat weatherized homes, and saves energy,” Said Obey. “It can help reduce the \$400 billion per year which America ships to oil producing countries. That money can be used for more productive things in our own economy.”

Typical weatherization work includes testing air seals, providing insulation in attics, sidewalls and other areas, refrigerator replacements, electric hot water heater replacements, mechanical adjustments such as cleaning and tuning up of furnaces, or furnace replacements when necessary and lighting replacements with energy saving components. The state of Wisconsin will supplement these measures with funds to replace freezers and expand health and safety efforts to maintain indoor air quality in weatherized homes.

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